

HJR 53 -- VOTER IDENTIFICATION

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 7 to 3.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment specifies that a person seeking to vote in a public election may be required by general law to identify himself or herself and verify his or her qualifications as a United States citizen and a Missouri resident by providing election officials with a form of identification that may include requiring valid government-issued photo identification. Exceptions to the identification requirement may also be provided for by general law.

PROPONENTS: Supporter provided information only.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dugger.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill will disenfranchise voters and complicate the election process. The Missouri Supreme Court decision defending the fundamental right to vote under the state constitution should be respected. The use of exceptions and provisional ballots does not fully protect the interest of voters and the right to vote should not be subject to appropriation decisions by the General Assembly. The HJR has a discriminatory effect and would result in an unfair financial burden for many minority groups, women, transgendered individuals, and the disabled population.

Testifying against the bill were Communications Workers Of America; Missouri Faith Voices; Marilyn McLeod; League Of Women Voters Of Missouri; Mid Amer Const Management LLC; AARP Missouri; Missouri National Education Association; ACLU-Missouri; Wayne Lee; and Missouri Association For Social Welfare.